

How Can We Improve Our Parks and "Green" Our City?

Citywide Parks and Urban Greening Survey!

Over the next 9 months, the City of Alameda will be working with the community to create an Urban Greening Plan. The Plan will assess how well our parks are serving our residents, explore opportunities for community gardens and urban agriculture, and create a strategy for improving our parks and overall greening our city.

As the first step in helping the City better understand the community's needs and wants, a professional research firm, Strategic Research Associates (SRA) will be conducting a telephone survey of Alameda residents. You may receive a telephone call in the next month from SRA. Approximately 450 city residents will be randomly selected to complete telephone interviews. The survey is structured to provide an unbiased sample that reflects the City's demographics. The phone interviews will be conducted on weekday evenings and weekends and will take about 12 minutes. You can help by completing the phone interview if you are called. For those of you who are contacted, we thank you in advance for your valuable participation.

In the spring, a web-based survey will be available, and community workshops will also be held to gather additional input.

Do you know what to do with leftover paints?

Painting is a popular home improvement project. Over 1 billion gallons of paint and similar coatings are consumed in the U.S. each year. This begs the question - what do you do with leftover paint? Leftover paint disposal is an important concern. Improperly discarded paint can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health.

Not all paints are the same. Unwanted oil-based paints, lacquer, enamel, and varnish are considered hazardous waste. They contain harmful materials. Latex paints are water-based paints. They are a safer and a more environmentally-friendly alternative to oil-based paints.

As per California State Law, leftover paints are never to be thrown in the garbage, poured down the sink, or dumped into street, gutter, or storm drain.

LATEX PAINTS:

✓ Residents may drop off leftover latex paints at these locations:

- ✓ ACI office in Alameda
- ✓ Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Oakland

The paint materials listed below, when ready for disposal, are considered household hazardous waste:

- ✓ Empty oil-based paint containers
- ✓ Leftover oil-based paints
- ✓ Thinners and thinner residues
- ✓ Varnishes
- ✓ Paint strippers

Here are some painting clean-up tips:

- ✓ Never rinse brushes, paint containers, or clean-up a spill into a street, gutter, or storm drain.
- ✓ "Paint-out" your brush as much as possible when finishing your painting task.
- ✓ Rinse latex paint brushes in the sink.
- ✓ If a spill occurs, use absorbent materials or rags for the clean-up.

These materials should be delivered to the Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Facility
2100 East 7th Street, Oakland

Call 800-606-6606 or visit STOPWASTE.ORG for hours of operations.